

**REGULAR MEETING  
DESTIN CITY COUNCIL  
APRIL 7, 2026  
ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5:30 PM**

The Council of the City of Destin met in regular session with the following members and staff present:

**Destin City Council**

Mayor Bobby Wagner  
Councilmember Sandy Trammell  
Councilmember Jim Bagby

Councilmember Rodney Braden  
Councilmember Dewey Destin  
Councilmember Kevin Schmidt

**Destin City Staff**

City Manager Larry Jones  
Projects/Grants/Contract Manager Jeffrey Cozadd  
Public Information Director Tamara Young  
Public Works Director Michael Burgess  
Community Development Director Tina Deater  
Christopher Koch, Code Compliance Manager  
HR Director Jaime Haynes  
City Attorney Kimberly Kopp

City Clerk Rey Bailey  
Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Firth  
Principal Planner Daniel Butler  
Building Official Noell Bell  
City Engineer Robert Tomasek  
Finance Director Krystal Strickland  
IT Director Andy Peters

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bobby Wagner called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. Pastor David J. Butler of Faith Assembly Christian Church, gave the invocation, which was then followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Agenda item C- *Available Funding Summary*, was pulled from the agenda.

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve the agenda, as amended, passed 5-0.**

A. Destin City Center Location (Visioning Item)

The City Manager presented the item as a follow-up to a prior visioning session, asking the council to provide direction on whether to prioritize a governmental center concept, keep both proposed locations under consideration, or guide staff on next steps for implementation.

Council discussion revealed two main perspectives. Some members supported prioritizing the governmental center concept and using the SRS study as a foundation for a long-term, phased plan. It was emphasized that no construction was being approved, only that staff should develop a sequencing plan to move the vision forward.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to prioritize the governmental center development and return with an initial plan outlining a logical sequence for implementation; seconded by Councilmember Schmidt.**

Some members expressed concern about the potential cost and scale of a large municipal project. They favored focusing instead on more immediate, practical needs such as recreational facilities, safety improvements, and possible land acquisition.

**Councilmember Destin offered a substitute motion to direct staff to focus on more immediate and practical improvements. Specifically, prioritizing the development of a new recreational community center, pursuing acquisition of additional land such as nearby acreage that could become available, and addressing safety improvements in the existing area particularly traffic concerns between facilities. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Braden.**

Additional discussion highlighted the city's growing recreational needs, particularly limitations at Morgan's Sports Complex and increasing demand from nearby neighborhoods. While all members agreed on the importance of improving recreation and safety, they differed on whether to pursue a broad long-term vision or a more focused, incremental approach.

**The substitute motion failed 2-3 (Council members Destin and Braden voted "yes"; Council members Schmidt, Bagby, and Trammell voted "no")**

**Original Motion: Councilmember Bagby moved to direct staff to prioritize the governmental center development and return with an initial plan outlining a logical sequence for implementation; seconded by Councilmember Schmidt.**

**Motion passed 3-2 (Council members Schmidt, Bagby, and Trammell voted "yes"; Council members Destin and Braden voted "no")**

- B. Section 1: Council Objectives: Council's Critical, Important, and Desirable Priorities  
Remove Critical Priority No. 1.1 and adjust and renumber the remaining priorities, accordingly, including elevating items through 1.9 into the critical priorities list (Councilmember Bagby's visioning item)

**Councilmember Bagby made a motion to streamline the council's critical priorities; keeping items 1.1 through 1.8, moving item 1.9 (Morgan Sports Center and Dalton Threadgill Park Master Plan) into the list of critical priorities, and eliminating all language following semicolons in each priority to simplify them. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Schmidt.**

Councilmember Bagby explained that his intent was to focus on broad priorities rather than detailed subcomponents that had already been completed or were no longer relevant.

**Motion passed 5-0.**

During discussion, the council agreed that priorities would remain unranked and equal, and that staff would remain flexible in responding to opportunities while recognizing the importance of all listed initiatives.

A modification was suggested and accepted to revise the wording “Public waterfront acquisition initiative” to “Public waterfront acquisition and improvement initiative.”

C. Available Funding Summary - Informational Only

Councilmember Bagby requested this item be pulled from the agenda, explaining that he and city staff would return at a later date with a more comprehensive and simplified presentation outlining funding availability over a five-year horizon. He emphasized that the key financial consideration facing the council would be whether to proceed with one or both Town Center options, noting that those projects alone could exceed \$50 million.

D. Destin's Core Values: Prioritized Strategic Goals

- 1) Amend Strategic Goal No. 6 (Councilmember Bagby's visioning item)

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to replace “A green and sustainable environment” to “Promote and protect the natural environment” passed 5-0.**

**1. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS / SPECIAL / PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Proclamation - Water Conservation Month

The mayor read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2026 as Water Conservation Month in the City of Destin.

B. Proclamation - Arbor Day Celebration

The mayor read the proclamation proclaiming April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day Celebration in the City of Destin.

C. Proclamation — Child Abuse Prevention Month — Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center

The mayor read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Destin.

D. Presentation - Rapid Flashing Beacon Potential Placement - Beach Dr near Sandpiper Cir and at 101 Matthew Blvd

Mr. Jim Wood, Chairman of Public Works/Safety Committee, presented two proposed rapid flashing beacon pedestrian crossings as part of the Public Works and Public Safety Committee’s ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian safety across the city.

He explained that both locations are midblock crossings on major collector roads and would be funded through the committee’s discretionary funds. The first location is on Beach Drive near the southeast corner of a school property, where he has personally observed frequent pedestrian activity, including children, parents, bicyclists, and other users. He emphasized that a flashing beacon at this location would significantly improve safety. The second location is on Matthews Boulevard near Village Baptist Church, where pedestrians – particularly on Sundays – cross midblock from a nearby parking area, while northbound drivers often accelerate toward a traffic signal, creating safety concerns.

Chairman Wood noted that these additions would bring the city's total number of such beacons to approximately 15 or 16 and expressed appreciation for council support.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to approve the Public Works and Public Safety Committee's recommendation for and direct the City Manager to place the rapid flashing beacons at the existing mid-block crosswalks on Beach Drive near Sandpiper Circle and at 101 Matthew Blvd. It would be funded by the Public Works and Public Safety Committee's discretionary funds. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Schmidt and passed 5-0.**

E. Short-Term Rental Ordinance Enforcement - Robert Clifford

Mr. Robert Clifford, speaking on behalf of the Crystal Beach Neighborhood Coalition, addressed the city council regarding growing concerns over large, hotel-like short-term rental (STR) properties in the neighborhood. He stated that issues previously raised in October 2025 have now materialized and worsened, citing what he described as deliberate and patterned non-compliance by property owners and managers. He provided examples of STRs exceeding allowable occupancy limits, misrepresenting bedroom counts, violating parking requirements, and advertising capacities beyond what is permitted under city code. He emphasized that such practices are destabilizing the neighborhood, eroding its character, and placing an unfair burden on residents, who are left to monitor and report violations with limited response from enforcement. Mr. Clifford criticized the city's approval process and enforcement efforts, noting minimal penalties and inadequate after-hours code enforcement. He also raised safety concerns, including overcrowded parking conditions and unattended rooftop fire pits.

Mr. Clifford urged the council to take decisive action by tightening parking limits to control occupancy, requiring more realistic scrutiny of building plans, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms. His recommendations included automatic revocation of STR permits for violations, limiting warnings to one per year, issuing fines for each subsequent violation, improving response times to complaints, and requiring property owners to correct false advertising and notify renters of accurate occupancy limits. He concluded by emphasizing that the goal is not to stop tourism, but to preserve livable neighborhoods and ensure fair enforcement of existing regulations.

The City Manager indicated a willingness to coordinate a meeting with Mr. Clifford, his staff, and relevant parties to ensure a clear and shared understanding of the issues. He acknowledged that some concerns have already been addressed while others are still in progress, and expressed a commitment to facilitating a collaborative discussion and returning with a report.

Councilmember Bagby supported holding the meeting but emphasized the need for a more definitive outcome, noting that while certain construction-related issue – such as the exterior stairwell – had been resolved, ongoing problems now relate to behavior and the rental use of the properties. He highlighted that this is not an isolated issue and referenced similar situations within the community, stressing the importance of proactive management and enforcement

**Councilmember Bagby made a motion directing staff to develop a report outlining recommended actions to address STR-related issues, and to bring this report back at the first council meeting in May. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Destin and passed 5-0.**

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jason Frazier spoke on behalf of Crystal Beach property owners, expressing concern about inconsistent enforcement of city regulations. He emphasized that he has historically followed city rules closely, making it difficult to justify compliance to clients when other developments appear to bypass standards. He urged the city to uphold regulations consistently to maintain fairness and neighborhood integrity.

Ms. Sherry Clifford raised concerns about safety and neighborhood impact from large short-term rental homes. She highlighted issues with excessive parking blocking emergency access and increasing fire risk. She stated that residents feel ignored despite prior meetings and are now organized and committed to pushing for action. She also expressed concern about corporate-driven development changing the residential character of the neighborhood. She provided general comments about personal legal matters, civil disputes, and her intent to handle disagreements through formal legal channels.

Ms. Clifford clarified that prior questions regarding property acquisition discrepancies have been resolved with supporting documentation. She discussed ongoing coordination with the city regarding an easement for studying a drainage/stormwater issue on his property. He expressed willingness to cooperate but objected to waiving rights prematurely and requested clarification from the City Attorney on next steps. She thanked the city for increased enforcement presence in the harbor area, noting a significant improvement in code compliance and law enforcement visibility.

Mr. Robert Murray (Crystal Beach resident/property manager) stated support for short-term rentals but emphasized the importance of responsible operation and strict compliance with city regulations. He requested consistent enforcement across all properties to protect reputable businesses and neighborhood quality.

## 3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Public Parking Support for Destin's 69th Annual Blessing of the Fleet and Community Fish Fry on Thursday, May 14, 2026.
- B. Mattie Kelly Outfall - CO # 2
- C. PZ-2026-50 - 3 Cross Court Residential Marine Construction
- D. HWB-001669-2025 - 627 Calhoun Ave. Residential Marine Construction
- E. Approval of minutes of February 17, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting
- F. Approval of minutes of March 2, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting.
- G. Approval of minutes of March 16, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve Consent Agenda items 3A through 3G, as printed above, passed 5-0.**

## 4. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- A. Mobility Fee Reduction Request – Amvets

The City Manager explained that the request comes from the Community Development Department regarding a required mobility fee of about \$40,102 tied to a change of use for a property being renovated by AmVets. He notes that the fee is mandated by the land development code and that the applicant is asking the council to waive all or part of it.

An AmVets representative then speaks, describing the organization as a nonprofit serving local veterans since 1993 and explaining that the project is only a renovation with no added square footage. He emphasizes financial hardship due to unexpected costs (parking, fire compliance, and other upgrades), the organization's history of community contributions, and the importance of securing a permanent home, ultimately requesting a full or partial waiver of the fee.

**Councilmember Braden moved to reduced the mobility fee to \$1.00; seconded by Councilmember Destin.**

Councilmember Braden argues that the project will not increase traffic or parking demand and praises the organization's community impact. This prompts broader council discussion, including concerns about fairness, precedent, and adherence to established rules. Some members question the timing of the waiver request and whether proper procedures were followed, while others highlight that the organization is simply relocating rather than creating new demand on infrastructure.

Councilmember Bagby acknowledges the value of AmVets but stresses that mobility fees exist to fund road improvements and should not be disregarded, warning that reducing the fee to \$1 could set a problematic precedent.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to approve a reduction in mobility fees for the AmVets project such that AmVets pays a total amount of \$12,000 in mobility fees. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Schmidt and passed 5-0.**

#### B. Update - Holiday Isle Park Property Recently Acquired by State of Florida

The City Manager outlined the status of the Norriego Point State Park update, noting that council members received a packet including prior resolutions, a statistically valid public survey reflecting county residents' preferences, and correspondence from the Holiday Isle Improvement Association supporting the city managing the park. He explains that staff is seeking direction on three primary issues: selecting a parking concept plan, determining allowable uses for the docks, and deciding whether to extend free parking to all county residents.

The City Attorney expands on the free parking issue, explaining that a county commissioner requested free parking not only at this park but potentially across all city parks, framing it as part of a broader negotiation for county support of city management. She also clarifies that dock uses under consideration include low-impact options such as a fishing pier and daytime transient slips, explicitly excluding overnight rentals or commercial marina operations.

The City Manager then details the two conceptual parking plans. The first features 45-degree angled parking along a one-way drive aisle, yielding 57 new spaces and 115 total spaces. The second uses 90-degree parking with wider travel lanes, producing 81 new spaces and 139 total spaces. Both concepts would require just over half an acre of land. Initial council discussion reflects a desire for maximizing parking to meet demand, with some members favoring the higher-capacity option. However, concerns quickly emerge about practicality, traffic flow, and safety.

Councilmember Destin supports increased parking and free parking for county residents as a reasonable trade-off to secure county cooperation, noting that most city parks already do not charge for parking and that visitors, not locals, are the primary users who pay. He also supports limited, low-impact dock uses such as fishing and short-term transient docking, arguing these could expand public access without introducing heavy commercialization. In contrast, other council members question the feasibility of the larger parking plan, particularly the 90-degree layout. Concerns

include maneuverability for large vehicles, especially trucks with trailers, and the potential for congestion on the narrow, curving roadway. Some members advocate for the angled, one-way design as safer and more consistent with nearby successful implementations.

Councilmember Bagby seeks clarification on the free parking proposal, confirming that city parks already do not charge for parking and that the policy would not extend to non-park areas like Crystal Beach, where paid parking would remain in effect for non-permitted users. This distinction alleviates some concerns about revenue loss and fairness. Additional discussion highlights logistical challenges, such as enforcing residency-based parking rules, managing overflow traffic, and addressing infrastructure needs like restroom capacity and parking availability indicators. Suggestions include installing real-time parking signage and negotiating with the county for funding assistance with infrastructure and traffic management systems.

Broader debate reveals skepticism from some members about the overall direction of the proposal. Concerns are raised about the city assuming financial and operational burdens for a state-owned property, the realism of projected usage, and whether the park's location – on the East Pass rather than the Gulf – would truly attract county residents. Some argue that demand may be overestimated and that water-based access might be more relevant than additional vehicle parking. Others emphasize the importance of balancing stakeholder “red lines,” including state restrictions on docks, county demands for free parking, neighborhood concerns about traffic, and the city's goal of maintaining control.

The mayor reflects on the practicality of the plan, questioning whether county residents would realistically travel through heavy traffic to access this location and suggesting that the additional parking may primarily serve tourists rather than locals. He stresses the importance of stepping back and evaluating whether the proposal genuinely benefits residents or simply appears advantageous on paper. Ultimately, the council leans toward the safer, lower-capacity parking concept (angled, one-way) while maintaining support for free parking in city parks, and agrees to continue negotiations with the county and state, using the conceptual plan as a basis for further discussion.

**Councilmember Destin moved to approve Concept 1, the lower-impact angled parking plan, including provisions for free parking for county residents as part of negotiations with the county, along with enhancements for improved traffic flow, signage indicating parking availability, and accessibility improvements. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 4-1; with Councilmember Schmidt dissenting.**

**Councilmember Destin made a motion regarding the docks to allow their use for public transient day-use slips and fishing piers, explicitly prohibiting overnight or high-intensity commercial uses, with associated parking credits applied per city code. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 5-0.**

C. Recommendation of Replacement Streetlight Fixtures for Discontinued “Destin-Prague” Model, FPL Request

The City Manager explained that the existing “Destin Prague” streetlight fixtures are no longer supported by FP, requiring replacement and a new lighting agreement. Staff recommended adopting a teardrop-style fixture with a decorative bracket as the new standard. The change applies to both the Town Center CRA and Harbor CRA areas. The council discussed the aesthetic change briefly (comparing the old fixture to a “shepherd's hook”).

**Councilmember Trammell moved to recommend the Teardrop (with Deep Skirt) streetlight fixture and #3 decorative bracket as the city's replacement for the discontinued Destin-Prague fixture in the Town Center CRA and the Area Lighting fixture for the Harbor CRA and authorize the City Manager to execute any required lighting agreement with FPL. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Braden and passed 5-0.**

D. RFB 26-01-PW Community Center Roof

The City Manager reported that three bids were received for replacing the community center roof, with the lowest responsible bid at \$652,634. He emphasized that securing the roof is the first critical step in a phased improvement plan for the building. The proposed roof is a standing seam metal system.

During discussion, council members raised concerns about warranty coverage and past issues with prior roof work. The City Manager clarified that this action was only to award the bid, with a detailed contract (including warranty specifics) to follow for council approval.

**Councilmember Destin moved to award RFB 26-01-PW – Community Center Roof Replacement to Inland Construction and Engineering contingent on the successful negotiation of a contract, which will be brought back to the council for consideration. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 5-0.**

E. Work Authorization for Dewberry - 4 Prong Lake Initial Design, Survey, Professional Services

The City Manager introduced a \$274,550 work authorization for initial design, surveying, and professional services related to Four Prong Lake. The scope includes cost estimating, environmental analysis, geotechnical work, hydraulic and hydrological modeling, and development of design geometry. It also covers procurement preparation for a design-build process and post-procurement services like environmental monitoring and construction inspection. The City Manager described this as the next logical phase of the project and expressed readiness to move forward pending council approval.

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve the Dewberry Work Authorization for Four Prong Lake, including initial engineering, survey, and other professional services, and authorize the City Manager to execute. Motion passed 5-0.**

F. Clement Taylor Park - CO # 2

The City Manager presented a change order totaling \$48,187.24. Of that, about \$29,700 was for replacing a pavilion roof that had been anticipated but not included in the original bid. The remaining costs were due to unforeseen site conditions, plan corrections, and the addition of a new irrigation well. Some savings were achieved by reducing sod installation.

**Motion by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve change order #2 for Clement Taylor Park Renovation Project for the amount of \$48,187.24, passed 5-0.**

#### G. 446 Calhoun Ave - Engineering Services

The City Manager outlined a proposal for engineering services (up to \$80,000) to convert 446 Calhoun Avenue into a parking facility, contingent on closing on the property. The scope includes environmental review, surveying, combining parcels into a single plat, and plan development.

Council discussion focused on costs, procurement processes for professional services, and whether zoning and comprehensive plan amendments would be required.

Staff clarified that the amendment qualifies as a small-scale change (under 50 acres) and would not require state review.

**Councilmember Schmidt moved to approve the proposal from Volkert, Inc. to provide engineering services for the property at 446 Calhoun Avenue and the budget amendment, both contingent upon the closing of the property located at 446 Calhoun Avenue. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 5-0.**

#### H. Emergency Purchase Order, Harbor Pump Repairs

The City Manager explained that a malfunction in the harbor pump system required immediate repair, costing approximately \$52,655. Due to urgency, repairs were already initiated, and the council was asked to approve the expenditure retroactively along with a budget amendment. The importance of maintaining the pump system was emphasized.

**Motion by Councilmember Bagby, seconded by Councilmember Trammell, to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$52,665 to appropriate from the 108 FDEP Water Quality fund balance. To approve an after-the-fact authorization for the City Manager to issue a purchase order to GoForth Williamson, Inc., in the amount of \$52,655 for emergency repair of the Destin Harbor pump system, passed 5-0.**

#### I. Code Compliance Activity Report

The City Manager presented a report summarizing code compliance activity, including documented interactions, registrations, and citations over two time periods. He explained that not all interactions result in citations, as some involve unfounded complaints or warnings.

Councilmember Schmidt questioned the discrepancy between the number of interactions and citations. The Code Compliance Manager clarified that many interactions do not lead to fines and that notices of violation are not fully tracked in the reporting system. He also noted that misclassification of incidents (e.g., parking vs. short-term rental violations) can affect the data. Additional discussion touched on enforcement challenges in areas like Crystal Beach.

#### J. Revised Health Insurance Cost Share Proposal

The City Manager proposed reducing the city's contribution to dependent health insurance coverage for new hires from roughly 66% to 50%, while continuing to fully cover employee premiums. He stated this aligns with common practices and would help control rising costs.

Councilmember Destin suggested exploring an alternative approach used by the local school district – creating a dedicated employee clinic to reduce insurance costs. The City Manager agreed this idea was worth exploring and noted that discussions had already begun.

**Councilmember Destin moved to delay changes to health insurance cost-sharing in order to explore coordination with the school board, particularly the feasibility of a shared or similar clinic model to reduce costs. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 5-0.**

#### K. Minimum Wage Adjustments

The City Manager presented cost estimates for raising minimum wages to \$17 or \$20 per hour, with and without addressing wage compression. He noted that no full-time employees currently earn below \$17/hour. Adjusting wages with compression considerations would significantly increase payroll costs.

**Councilmember Bagby moved to defer immediate minimum wage adjustments and instead direct staff to conduct a comprehensive wage study for inclusion in the next budget cycle to ensure competitiveness. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Trammell and passed 5-0.**

#### L. Commuter Policy

The City Manager outlined three options: no action, a flat stipend (up to \$40 per employee), or a hybrid model based on commute distance and bridge usage. He noted that about 40% of employees live within city limits, comparable to nearby cities. The council discussed fairness and cost implications, ultimately deciding to revisit the idea during the budget cycle as an option rather than committing immediately.

**Councilmember Schmidt moved to bring back a commuter policy option during the budget process, including consideration of stipends or reimbursement structures, with flexibility for further refinement. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Destin and passed 5-0.**

#### M. Permit Valuation Validation Process - Informational Only

The City Manager described a new internal process to address underreported construction values in permit applications. The goal is to use industry standards to identify significantly undervalued estimates and request supporting documentation when necessary. While not expected to be perfect, the process aims to improve accuracy and fairness in permit fee assessments. No council action was required, but the update was shared for awareness.

#### N. Announcements

1. Welcome back Tina Dieter to staff.
2. New City Clerk Lisa Wallace starting next Monday.
3. Quasi-judicial hearing for Harbor Walk Village Phase 2 scheduled for next Monday at 6:00 PM, with briefings to be arranged.
4. Earth Day cleanup (April 26) from 8–10 AM at June White Decker Park.
5. Pooch Palooza event (April 26) from 10 AM–2 PM benefiting the dog park.
6. Arbor Day celebration (April 24) at 10 AM at Buck Destin Park.
7. Library closed April 17 for staff training.
8. Vertical oyster garden event (April 18) from 1–2 PM at Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park.
9. America 250 parade (May 9) in Crestview at 4 PM, with a City of Destin float planned.

10. America 250 gala (June 12) at the old fairgrounds (tickets available to the public).
11. Norrieo Point Recreation Area ribbon cutting (April 28) at 10 AM.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Second reading of Ordinance 26-14-LC - Amending the official zoning map in the Land Development Code, Section 7.12.01(A)2, to include a change in the zoning designation of real property generally located at 446 Calhoun Avenue.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 26-14-LC by title, and then presented it to the council on second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AS REFERENCED IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTION 7.12.01(A)2, ZONING MAPS, TO INCLUDE A CHANGE IN THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT 446 CALHOUN AVENUE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A", CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY .78 ACRES, FROM BAY ESTATES (BE) TO RECREATION (REC); PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR JURISDICTION; PROVIDING FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Hearing none, the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

**Motion by Councilmember Trammell, seconded by Councilmember Bagby, to approve Ordinance 26-14-LC passed 5-0.**

- B. Second reading of Ordinance 26-15-PC - Amending the comprehensive plan; providing for the adoption of a small scale amendment to the comprehensive plan future land use map to include a change in future land use designation of real property generally located at 446 Calhoun Avenue.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 26-15-PC by title, and then presented it to the council on second reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A SMALL SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO INCLUDE A CHANGE IN FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT 446 CALHOUN AVENUE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A", CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY .78 ACRES, FROM BAY ESTATES (BE) TO RECREATION (REC); PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Hearing none, the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

**Motion by Councilmember Trammell, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to approve Ordinance 26-15-PC on second reading passed 5-0.**

- C. First reading of Ordinance 26-13-LC - Amending Section 11.05.00, "Marina Siting" of the Land Development Code to require staff level review of single-family residential docks; removing the requirement for review by Harbor and Waterways Board of single-family residential docks; and removing the requirement for city council review of single-family residential docks.

The City Attorney read Ordinance 26-13-LC by title, and then presented it to the council on first reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 11.05.00, "MARINA SITING" OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO REQUIRE STAFF LEVEL REVIEW OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DOCKS; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW BY HARBOR AND WATERWAYS BOARD OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DOCKS; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DOCKS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive comments for or against the proposed ordinance. Hearing none, the mayor closed the public hearing and turned the matter over to the city council for discussion and consideration.

**Motion by Councilmember Trammell, seconded by Councilmember Destin, to approve Ordinance 26-13-LC on first reading passed 5-0.**

**6. COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY ATTORNEY**

- A. Councilmember Braden
- B. Councilmember Trammell
  - 1) Naming of Parks/Structures

**Councilmember Trammell moved to direct staff to draft an ordinance establishing procedures for naming parks, consistent with the existing ordinance governing the naming of streets. Motion passed 5-0.**

- C Councilmember Destin

Councilmember Destin asked about a previously discussed plan to install a wall along a section of the crosstown connector near the old campground, particularly where the road curves and nearby residents are concerned about vehicles potentially entering their yards. He wanted to know if staff had prepared cost estimates or if a reminder was needed.

Staff responded that they are still working with an engineering firm to develop the estimates. They expect to have pricing, recommendations, and possibly multiple options ready to present at the next meeting.

- D. Councilmember Bagby
- E. Councilmember Hebert
- F. Councilmember Schmidt
- H. Mayor Wagner

H. City Attorney

The City Attorney announced that Councilmember Geile had resigned due to personal obligations, creating a vacancy on the council. Citing Section 309C of the City Charter, the attorney explained that because less than one year remains in the term, the council is required to fill the vacancy by majority vote; this is mandatory, though the method of selection is at the council's discretion.

The council agreed to open an application period and advertise the position publicly through available channels with the goal of reviewing applicants and making a selection at the next meeting.

City Legal Matters:

- A. Request for legislative sponsor for ordinance clarifying definition of "beach"

The City Attorney requested a legislative sponsor to amend the Land Development Code so that its definition of "beach" aligns with the City Charter. Currently, the Land Development Code defines the beach from the mean low water line to the dunes, while the Charter limits jurisdiction to the mean high water line. Councilmember Bagby agreed to sponsor the amendment.

- B. Request for approval of Fisher Consultants to provide Expert Witness services in Pending City Litigation

The City Attorney presented an engagement letter for Ms. April Fischer to serve as an expert witness in litigation involving Claude Perry Enterprises related to public slips.

**Councilmember Schmidt made a motion to approve the engagement, which was seconded by Councilmember Braden and passed 5-0.**

## 7 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Fitzpatrick expressed frustration with the lack of acknowledgment and direction from the council regarding his ongoing issue. He stated that he had spent considerable resources obtaining studies and contractor input and believed his claims were reasonable and supported by facts. He asked for a clear response or at least acknowledgment from the council.

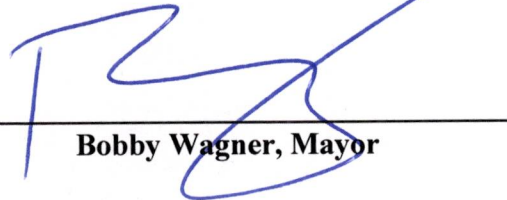
In reply, the City Attorney stated that the city had already responded multiple times, both verbally and in writing, including a formal response in March, and reiterated that the city does not accept liability and has denied any request for financial compensation. However, the city did offer an easement that would allow access to the property for drainage studies to determine whether any corrective action might be appropriate.

Mr. Fitzpatrick raised concerns about language in the easement, specifically a “perpetual release of claims,” which he interpreted as overly broad. The City Attorney clarified that the release was limited to activities related to entering the property and conducting the studies, not to prior or unrelated liability.

Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that he had submitted revised language over the Easter weekend, and the City Attorney responded that the revisions had not yet been reviewed. The matter remains under consideration, with both parties indicating a willingness to continue discussions outside the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.**



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**Bobby Wagner, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



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**Rey Bailey, City Clerk**

